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: S H O C H I K U :

" TOJIN - ZUKA "

Written by Kido Okamoto.

To be presented by Ennosuke Troupe
aided by Yaeko at the Tokyo Theater
from April 2nd, 1948.



First Scene:

Within the castle of So.

The stage is surrounded on three sides by walls.

There are entrances in the front and to the left, side.

There is set a table in the middle of the stage.

Ko-u, the leader of the So Forces hurriedly comes out carrying a halberd in armour. He is covered with arrows all over the body, for he has just managed to cut his way through the enemy.

Ko-u:

Hallo, Gubijin! Now I have come back!

(Gubijin makes her appearance with a chinese fan; she has been anxiously waiting for Ko-u.)

Gubijin:

Oh my lord! I am so glad to see you well!

Ko-u:

The soldiers came fewer and our provisions were almost exhausted in the sieze of the enemy on all sides. We desperately delivered an attack against the overwhelming

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enemy and had a hard fighting driving and scattering them off. But our forces being hungry and tired against the big enemy, we could not pursuit them so far. However, I feel a little satisfaction having given a severe blow to the enemy.

Gubijin:

Oh I am very glad to hear it, but you have got so many arrows on your armour. I am afraid you have got hurt.

Ko-u:

(Laughs) Ha, ha, ha. Such arrows are nothing to me. How could they stick in my strong bone? Now I am very thirsty on account of the hard fighting. Bring some wine.

Gubijin:

Certainly sir.

(Gubijin puts the fan on the table and exits in low spirits. Ko-u gets seated on the chair.)

Ko-u:

Since I rose my army eight years ago, first we ruined Shin to avenge our country and next waged a fateful war against Kan. Through over

seventy battles big and small, we have never been defeated carrying everything before us. Now, however, fortune being against us, our castle are surrounded by the enemy on all sides. It is not our own doing. It has been ordained by Providence, I think. Foolish as it is, I cannot but be mortified still!

(Ko-u accuses the hard times with an indignant and terrible look like a demon. In the meantime Gubijin appears with a cup and a bottle of wine.)

Gubijin: As you know, our provisions having been exhausted, there is nothing eatable, I am sorry,

Ko-u: To say nothing of food, I want to take wine.

(Ko-u makes Gubijin pours him a cup of wine and drinks comfortably.)

You drink too.

Gubijin: Thanks.

(Ko-u fills her cup. Gubijin weeps over drinking.)

Ko-u: You weep? This evening, my heart is full

of emotions and I feel like fawning upon with tears calling to mind my childhood when I was embraced in my mother's arms. I wonder why tears comes out and my strong heart is melting away like ice in spring. I feel my days are numbered. You can understand my feelings, Gubijin?

Gubijin: I ~~am~~ prepared for anything now.

(Gubijin gets down on her knees and laments to part with Ko-u.)

Ko-u: I am deeply sorry to part from you, but I intend to run our later to try my luck again. For a little while I am taking a rest overthere. Don't you care to dance a farewell dance?

Gubijin: Yes, I am ready. Order me anything you like.

Ko-u: Well. Draw the sword and dance with it. I will see overthere. (Rising to his feet and looks at the sky.) Look! In the autumn night with the beautiful milky way, a red star is flying from the north with a long trail. The death of a general has occurred, I think.

(Ko-u hands Gubijin his sword and enters the back room in low spirits.)

Gubijin: As I am a good-for-nothing woman after all, I will not spare my life at all. But I am deeply mortified and cannot but feel pity for the declining fortune of my lord, the greatest general in the world.

(She bursts into tears throwing herself to the ground. Thereupon Romado makes his appearance in a figure of a pack-horse driver.)

Romado: Is my lord here? I have something to tell to him.

Gubijin: Oh, you are Romado. What for have you come here so suddenly? The lord is taking a rest overthere. If anything I will convey it to him.

Romado: Then, I am telling it to you. The excellent horse of our lord that runs 100 miles in an hour and 1000 in a day, has broken its leg all of a sudden, and

will not move a little squatting down on the ground. As it is so strange a thing, I have come to inform my lord of the matter.

Gubijin: That is the famous horse in the lord's favour I wonder why it will not move a step having broken its leg all of a sudden when things have come to such a pass.

Romado: Indeed it is beyond me!

Gubijin: A beast as it is, it can understand the situation?

Romado: What do you mean?

Ko-u: (From the back room) I say, Gubijin! Why don't you dance? I will sing now.

Gubijin: Yes, my lord!
(Ko-u is heard to sing. Gubijin draws the sword and dances. Having finished dancing Gubijin throws herself on the table in tears with the sword in her arms.)

The stage revolves in darkness.

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Second Scene :

The stage represents the semi-detached room of a brothel of Maruyama at Nagasaki.

There is an alcove in the front, and a sliding-door to the next. On the alcove there are set exotic ornaments. An exotic lantern is hanging under the eaves. In the garden there are a standing palm-tree, a stone lantern and stepping stones.

Afternoon in the early spring.

When the stage lights up, Takemoto's Joruri reciting starts.

Waitress Ohide makes her appearance with a tray and a cup of water.

Ohide: Some time ago you ordered me to bring
a cup of water, but I am sorry to have come
so late because I have been much occupied
overthere. (Calls out from outside the
folding screen.) Halle, Chin-sama!
Are you sleeping now? Oh, he is hag-
ridden! Hallo, Chin-sama!
(Ohide gets on the verandah and removes

the folding screen. Chin-jinsha, handsome Chinese merchant is sleeping leaning over a table with wineglasses etc. on it.)

Ohide: Hallo, hallo! Better wake up, sir!

Jinsha: (Turning back) Oh, was that a dream? It seems I was sleeping drowsily for some time.

Ohide: You seemed to have a nightmare.

Jinsha: Was it so? Maybe. (Drinks water.) Has Renzan not yet come back?

Ohide: Though as usual, it is embarrassing that the copper tablet of the crucifix takes much time. But I am sure it will end by seven. Renzan-sama will soon be back. I must ask you to wait a little longer.

(Thereupon Choshiro, master of Sakaiya comes in with a pale look under the guidance of Osato, another waitress. He is in kamishimo wearing swords.)

Osato: That is Chin-sama's room, sir.

Jinsha: Oh, Mr. Sakaiya!

Choshiro: Excuse me. (Gets on the verandah.)

Jinsha: Get ready for drinking quickly. Bring something eatable, too.

Osato:)

Ohide:)

Certainly, sir. (The two start to go.)

Choshiro:

No, you need not do it. I must have a private talk with Chin-san. Therefore be away from the room till I call you. Here is a New Year's gift for you. Properly distribute it among all of you.

(Choshiro gives a packet of money to Ohide.)

Ohide:

Many thanks, sir. We shall later come to say thanks again.

Osato:

I hope you may have a long talk.

(Ohide and Osato exit towards the left side.)

Jinsha:

Mr. Sakaiya, you look very pale, don't you? It is still in the first seven days of the New Year. Why don't you take wine and make merry? Or you are suffering from a "Carry-over"?

Choshiro:

I have been suffering from overdrink from last year, and even a drop of the New Year's sake does not pass my throat. Because of the bad intoxication I have

nearly lost my senses. How cheeky you should urge me to drink wine and make merry! While I am living I have been a making round of New Year's calls to my business acquaintances for the sake of social courtesy. However, nothing makes me happy and I am moping away my time as you know. In spirit I am already as good as dead, you see.

Jinsha:

You may well say so. I can understand your state of mind even without hearing it. But my distress is far greater than yours. Because of the storm of last fall the three merchant ships from Kwantung came to drift at the mercy of the waves. One of them were washed ashore at Korea, but as ill luck would have it the two ships loaded with my goods became missing. Perhaps both men and goods were sent to the bottom of the sea. The goods I lost included precious ceramic wares, coral stones, musk, many sorts of thread etc., which are worth many hundred thousands yen.

Bold as I am, I became at a loss what to do struck with amazement. That was the beginning of my downfall. Misfortune fell upon me one after another, and as things have come to such a pass I am at the end of my resources. Therefore I cannot but fall in my duty to my business acquaintances of the country and I am very sorry to give many troubles to my customers in Japan.

Choshiro:

Enough of your excuses! It is not for the purpose of hearing about the story of wrecked ships that I came here all the way. I want to hear what shall you do with 10,000 yen I accommodated you with since last summer. I lent it for nothing on your goods, and took part in your business. Therefore I must abide by the inevitable, but circumstances will not make me resign myself. I was prepared for the critical moment for my life on the old year's day. However, I fortunately survived till to day and could see the sunrise on New Year's Day.

Now I must take your life I left you
for the past three days!

(Choshiro draws close to Jinsha.)

Jinsha: Why you are in a confusion like that!
What a short temper! Are you killing
me out of spite for the business matter?

Choshiro: Oh, I must kill you! How could I save your
life? Formerly I was a mere servant at
Sakaiya. I won my master's credit due to my
long perseverance and was adopted as his
son-in-law in the year before last. The
master and mistress transferred the head-
ship of their house to me and retired
from business at Doza-cho regardless of
their relatives' objections and people's
backbiting. Being sensible of their
deep favours toward me, I became very
jealous for making my house more and more
prosperous to make people feel self-
reproach for their backbiting. That
was my youthful follies. Only because
of taking part in your business, I caused
an irrevocable loss. Though the loss of
10,000 yen will not inflict a fatal

damage upon the fortune of Sakaiya,
I dare not continue to live any longer
out of respect to my father-in-law,
relatives and people at large since
I caused such a big loss.

Jinsha: That is really a painful pass. I urged
you to put the money into my business,
it is true, but the business loss is our
mutual misfortune. It was not my intention.
Your grudge against me is unreasonable.
You must not be so reckless as to kill
another and yourself at the same time.

Choshiro: That was of course an unforeseen event and I
know well you are not to blame for it, but
now that things have come to this, you
cannot escape from misfortune. I will kill
you and myself at the same time. Prepare
for death!

Jinsha: Don't be so unreasonable! Be careful not to
despise me, otherwise you will be sorry
for it! I have the knowledge of traditional
chinese fencing.

Choshiro: Though a tradesman, I am a Japanese!
(The two confront face to face. Thereupon
Renzan, a prostitute of 19 years makes her
appearance pulled by a young man Toshiro.
She hurriedly wedges herself between the
two.)

Renzan: I don't know the circumstance, but
just wait a moment please!

Choshiro: Bother! Get out of the way!
(Choshiro pushes her away and attacks
at Jinsha. Tosuke holds him from the
back.)

Renzan: You, intimate friends with each other,
are under the influence of New Year's
wine? Sakaiya-dono is going to cut
at Chin-san with a sword! Stop such
a dangerous thing please!

Jinsha: He came to provoke a quarrel with me.
He is intoxicated or insane!

Choshiro: It goes without saying!
(Choshiro tries to approach Jinsha.
Tosuke holds him back.)

Tosuke: Say, Master of Sakaiya! I don't know the
reason, but you cannot be in your right
mind to start a fight at this joyous
place of the New Year. Calm yourself
please!

Choshiro: But as it is -----
(Choshiro again tries to draw closer to
Jinsha. Tosuke holds him back.)

Jinsha: Say, Mr. Sakaiya! You cannot do as you like because of interruption. Do you care to go back gently?

Choshiro: Well -----

Jinsha: Come again a few days later!

Choshiro: Be waiting for that day without dodging about!

Tosuke: Enough! Let's go now.
(Tosuke takes Choshiro out. Thereupon the sound of the evening bells comes within hearing.)

Jinsha: Oh, it is getting dark now.
(Ohide appears with a candlestick.)

Ohide: Oh, Renzan-san! You are welcome home.
(She lights the lantern under the eaves.)

Jinsha: Bring some wine quickly.

Ohide: Certainly sir. (exits.)

Jinsha: How about the examination to christians?

Renzan: It was very crowded as usual. As I am not a christian, I ought not to have any hesitation in treading on the copper tablet of the cruci-fix, 11/11/11

But it is somewhat impious for a mean woman like me to give a kick to an image of the saint, I think.

Before the tablet I felt cramp all over the body and trembled against my will.

Jinsha: Be careful about what you say, otherwise you might suffer from the cruel punishment on suspicion of being a christian.
(Thereupon Tosuke appears.)

Tosuke: The master of Sakaiya gently went home after I calmed him down.

Renzan: Thank you for your trouble.
(Jinsha takes out some money and tells Renzan to give it to Tosuke. Renzan wraps it in paper and gives to Tosuke.)

Renzan: Though a little this is a token of my thanks to you.

Tosuke: Well. Thanks you very much.

Renzan: Please put my clogs in order.

Tosuke: Yes, madam.

(Tosuke exits with Renzan's wooden clogs.)

Renzan: How did you come to fight with Mr. Sakaiya like that?

Jinsha: There is no anxiety, he got a little violent under the influence of the New Year's wine.

Renzan: This is nothings to say if that was really under the influence of wine. But I wonder why he suddenly got violent like that while he was usually very gentle, and moreover I didn't think he was so intoxicated.

Jinsha: Well.

Renzan: I am afraid you may have failed in your duty toward him.

Jinsha: Not only to Sakaiya, but also to my business acquaintances and many of Japanese customers I have been ungrateful. Formerly I was a leading merchant in Kwantung and I had the biggest shop among my fellow-traders. Only a business card of mine allowed me to deal goods worth thousands of yen. But since last year I came to feel small and on the day of the festival at the end of the year I had to hear the shund of crackers from the distance as

if avoiding public notice. By the end of this month a ship on the Kwanting line is to start. The sea may be high in February, but I must not be fearful of it. I must return to my native country to raise money for the purpose of retrieving my fortunes.

Renzan: Can you expect to raise the money?

Jinsha: It is uncertain until I return to the country, but if I fail to make enough capital even by violent efforts, my shop at this town would immediately collapse. In case of bankruptcy I shall have to give troubles not only to my fellow people, but also to foreigners such as Japanese, Dutch people etc. I am ashamed to say, but Sakaiya came here to take my life.

Renzan: Eh!

Jinsha: Young and honest, he is about to kill himself out of inward worry. I wish to save him, but I have not enough money for it. I almost feel like being killed

with his sword, but at the last moment I resist him. Now I cannot understand my own mind.

Renzan:

Since your ships were wrecked last fall, your fortunes have been on the wane, I know well. To-day when I went out to tread upon the copper tablet of crucifix, I heard people backbiting about your straitened circumstances. I could not but feel very small and became sad. I felt as if I were trodden upon my own face as well as the image of the saint. When I came back I fell upon the trouble like that between you and Mr. Sakaiya. You might enter into my painful feelings.

Jinsha:

As I understand your heart, I revealed everything to you. Though your regular customer falls low, you might be sympathized with by your friends and people at large so long as he is a Japanese. But Great is trouble that you got acquainted with me, a foreigner to you.

In such a case you are a laughing-stock of people to my regret. My fate is sealed now though I was a leading merchant both in China and Japan. How regretful!

Renzan:

I am a Japanese and you are a chinese. The two countries are thousand of miles off from each other, though it looks near on the map, You are going to start for your country. If you find it difficult to raise the necessary money. You would not come to Nagasaki again. We have long been acquainted with each other and I cannot cut off my sorrow of parting from you. Human nature is the same all over the world. What shall I do now?

(Renzan complains of her painful feelings with tears in her eyes. Jinsha is silent with a hanging head. In the meantime Ohide brings wine and some eatables.)

Ohide: Sorry to have kept you waiting.

Osato: Shall I bring another candlestick?

Jinsha: No, you need not.

Hide: Then, let me serve you.

(Ohide helps him to wine.)

Jinsha: I hear people making merry.

Hide: It is very thriving as spring has
come.

Renzan: You had better go overthere without
minding about us; you are very busy,
aren't you?

Hide: Excuse me please, then.

Osato: Please call me when you want anything
with me.

(Chide and Osato exit.)

Renzan: This lantern gives a bad light as
Osato-san said.

Jinsha: It matters little for us. (Sings
with a cup.)

I see tears stream down her cheeks,
Under the dim light of candle,
As the night wears away,
I hear the enemy's warsong each gate.

Now I can understand the grief of
Ko-u who heard his enemy's songs
under a feeble light only with his
sweetheart Gubijin.

Renzan: I can't understand anything. What do
you mean?

Jinsha: Japanese women do not know it. In
China once upon a time two countries
Kan and So got at war with each other.
So was completely defeated and the castle
was surrounded by the forces of Kan, when
Ko-u, the general of So, parted from
his sweetheart Gubijin with deep grief
hearing the enemy's warsongs near the
castle. Somebody wrote a poem out of this
old story.

Renzan: What did become of the two, then?

Jinsha: It is said Ko-u killed himself by cutting
off his own head after having fought
unsupported against the enemy, and Gubi-
jin by stabbing her breast with a sword.

Renzan: Then she gracefully killed herself?

Jinsha: It is said from the following year on,

beautiful red flowers got in bloom at the place where she shed blood as if symbolizing her soul. Those who happened to pass by felt pity for her fate and since then the flower came to be called Gubijin-so."

(Red poppy)

Renzan: About what time did it happen?

Jinsha: I don't know well, but perhaps it was more than two thousand years ago. Just a little time ago I saw that old event in a dream.

Renzan: Eh?

Jinsha: While I was waiting for you, I fell into a doze when I certainly saw Ko-u and Gubijin loathing to part from each other in a room of the castle.

Renzan: Well maybe. I am afraid the dream might become true. (She looks around and draws near Jinsha.)

Say, Chin-san! There may be a woman under a fate like that of Gubijin who appeared in your dream, you see. Your present situation seems to be just like

that of the great Chinese general who lost the battle. I feel envious of the beauty who was incarnated as a beautiful flower after havings died with her lover. I wish I were a flower like that.

(Tears dropps copiously into her sleeves.)

Jinsha: I am sorry to have told such a story as brought you a great grief like that. Let's drop the subject and make merry over drinking wine. We cannot be in low spirits at the gay quarters. Let's make merry calling geisha and baffoons.

Renzan: That may be good. (thinking) As I feel ill at ease in this figure, I am just going to change the clothes. Be waiting for a while.

Jinsha: Oh, I see.

Renzan: (Rises to her feet.) What was the name of the flower you told me about?

Jinsha: It is Gubijin-so, you see.

Renzan: Oh, Gubijin-so! It is a red flower,
isn't it?

Jinsha: Well.

(Renzan hesitates a little, but exits
toward the back room resolutely.

Thereupon Choshiro again makes his
appearance from the left side wrapping
his cheeks with a towel.)

Jinsha: Who is coming with stealthy steps?

Choshiro: I will not give a surprise attack.

(taking off the towel.) I am
Choshiro of Sakaiya, you see.

Jinsha: Oh, Sakaiya! Again you came?

Choshiro: I will not let you escape now.

(Choshiro draws out his sword.

Jinsha keep him off with a fit.

They get down to the garden and

fight with each other. Choshiro
stabs Jinsha with the sword and the
latter falls to the ground.)

Jinsha: You will kill me by all means?

Choshiro: You may think ill of me! I must put
you to death out of a man's honour and
I will kill myself on the spot!

Jinsha: None of your cheek!
(Jinsha tries to rise but again falls down. Thereupon Renzan makes her appearance tottering with a strip of paper.)

Renzan: Say Chin-san! You are in such a plight, too!
(She speaks breathing with difficulty.)

Choshiro: What on earth is the matter with you?
I thought you again came to interfere with me, but your painful look and hard breathing show a significant matter.

Renzan: • You will see the reason in this.
(She gets down to the garden with pains and shows the strip of paper to Jinsha. Choshiro looks into it but cannot read well because of darkness. Then, he brings the lanterns from under the eaves. They read.)

Jinsha: I am dying now in a Chinese costume.

Choshiro: How could I continue to exist in this world now that I must part from the person of my bosom?

Jinsha: Then, out of grief in parting from
me -----?

Renzan: I have taken a foreign-made poison
which I once got from a foreign
customer. I had kept it as a ratsbane,
but it served me to-day accidentally.

Choshiro: Then, you have taken poison?
(Choshiro gets surprised and cannot
utter a word.)

Renzan: Say, Chin-san! Your story of Gubi-
jin-so made me sad, but envious of the
flower at the same time.

Jinsha: Then, you wished to become the flower?
I must say thanks to you. I am so
glad! Now that I have got such a seri-
ous wound, there is no hope.

Renzan: You are dying too?

Jinsha: Just as my dream, Gubijin is dying
and Ko-u, too.

Renzan: From next year on red flowers will
bloom in this town.

Jinsha: Say Sakaiya! Better go away quickly
before somebody knows about the matter.

Choshiro: No. Since I have give you a fatal wound, I am prepared for death.

(Choshiro takes up the sword.)

Jinsha: You don't understand still? I am dying together with Renzan, you see.

Choshiro: Eh?

Jinsha: I cannot live any longer seeing the pitiful feeling of this Japanese woman. It is of no use for you to do your duty for the dying Chinaman. Go away quickly pretending to know nothing.

Choshiro: But I cannot leave here as things are like this.-----.

Jinsha: How long you cause anxiety to me!
(Choshiro gets persuaded and starts to go.)

Choshiro: Cowardly as I am, I must be going, It is my duty to hold the repose of your souls.

Jinsha: I ask your favour about it.

Renzan: Mr. Sakaiya!

Choshiro:

May your souls rest in peace.

(Jinsha and Renzan approach each other and hold each other's hand. Choshiro holds out the lantern that they may look well at each other's face. The lovers breathe their last. Choshiro wipes his tears. The sound of a bell comes within hearing.)

----- Curtain. -----